

REMARKS

Claims 1-2 and 4-8 have been amended herein to obviate the rejections and more definitely define the invention. Claims 1 and 2 have been amended to delete reference to non-elected subject matter. Support for the amendment of claim 5 can be found in paragraph [0044], bridging pages 29 and 30 of the Specification. Support for the amendment of claim 6 can be found in paragraph [0056], bridging pages 36 and 37 of the Specification. Support for the amendment of claim 7 can be found in paragraph [0064] and [0065] on pages 46 and 47 of the Specification. Support for the amendment of claim 8 can be found in paragraph [0064] and [0065] on pages 46 and 47 of the Specification. The present amendment is deemed not to introduce new matter. Claims 1-9 are in the application.

Reconsideration is respectfully requested of the objection to claims 1 and 2 as containing non-elected subject matter. Claims 1 and 2 have been amended to delete the unelected formulas. In view of same, it is believed that the objection is now moot. Withdrawal of the objection is accordingly respectfully requested.

Reconsideration is respectfully requested of the rejection of claims 3 and 5-8 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

It is respectfully submitted that claim 3 is definite, as the Specification clearly discloses the surface modification properties of the phosphorylcholine group-containing chemical compound of the present invention. With regards to claims 5-8, same have been amended herein to now clearly state that phosphorylcholine groups are introduced to the surface by treatment of each of the claimed compositions/devices with the surface modifier of claim 3. Thus, it is believed that claims 5-8 are no longer indefinite, as the end product of the treatment of each

claimed composition/device is now claimed.

In view of these amendments, it is believed that the Examiner would be justified in no longer maintaining the rejection. Withdrawal of the rejection is accordingly respectfully requested.

With regards to the Examiner's comments on page 4, under the heading "Allowable Subject Matter", it is believed that the amendments to instant claim 2 render the objection to claim 4 moot. Further, it is respectfully submitted that, in view of the Examiner's comments concerning claim 4, both independent claim 2 and claim 4 are now in condition for allowance.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the application is now in condition for allowance, and early action and allowance thereof is accordingly respectfully requested. In the event there is any reason why the application cannot be allowed at the present time, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact the undersigned at the number listed below to resolve any problems.

Respectfully submitted,

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